Rajya Sabha on 5th December, 1986 and stat:

(a) whether any disciplinary action has been taken aginst the then Br. Manager, Delhi who was allegedly responsible for various irregularities as indicated in the audit report of Director (ACW&M) pertaining to Delhi Branch of NCCF for the year 1983-84; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons for the same and by when action is likely to be taken aginst him?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D.L. BAITHA): (a) NCCF have reported that no disciplinary action has been taken against the then Branch Manager, Delhi.

(b) On the basis of the explanation obtained by the NCCF from the Branch Manager concerned, the matter is under consideration at Government's level.

Strategy to achieve foodgrains production target

1799. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rainfall has not been favourable for agriculture during the year 1988-89; and

lb) if so, what strategy Government propose to adopt to achieve the annual prodcution of 172 million tonnes in this year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) and (b) No; Sir By and large the rainfall has been very favourable for agricultural production during the year leading to a record foodgrains production during 1988-89.

Progress in providing drinking water facilities in villages

1800. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of villages in the country;

(b) how many villages have arrange ments for sale and protected drinking water facilities; and

(c) what are the reasons for slow prog ress in providing drinking water facilities there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) As per 1971 census in the case of Assam and Tripura and 1981 census in case of all other States/UTs, there are 5,82,971 Villages in the country.

(b) 5,51,816 villages have arrangements for atleast one or more source of safe drinking water facilities as on 31.1.89.

(c) The progress of coverage of Problem Villages (PVs) with safe drinking water facilities in the country is satisfactory.. All the PVs are likely to be covered in the 7th Plan except in the case of Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Punjab. In these States about 3347 PVs are likely to spill over to the 8th Plan due to difficult nature of the terrain/topography of the area, limited working season, nonavailability of adequate financial resources, lack of infrastructure and lack of man power resources.